

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

July 10, 1981

POLAND: Regime's Tough Stance

*The government took several actions yesterday to show political toughness before the Central Committee plenum today and the party congress next week. [REDACTED]*

The Ministry of Transportation appointed an Air Force general to head the nation's airline, thus rejecting Solidarity's demand that employees have the final voice in the selection process. Airline employees, who staged a four-hour warning strike yesterday to underscore their demands, will be angered by the government move and may decide to advance the date for a longer strike, now threatened for 24 July. [REDACTED]

The Supreme Court decision to jail three dissidents until their trial resumes later this month may please the Soviets but will provoke a strong outcry from some of the dissidents' supporters. The action responds to the prosecutor's contention that the accused were engaging in illegal political activity during the numerous trial recesses; it overturned the decision of the court which has been handling the trial since it began in mid-June. The defendants, who are members of a small extremist group accused of subversion, had earlier been allowed their freedom largely because of public protests. [REDACTED]

These actions may have been intended to head off any criticisms from party conservatives at the Central Committee plenum. Party chief Kania has been under pressure to stand firm against Solidarity's demands and the dissidents and probably felt that he could not compromise at this time. [REDACTED]

In addition to approving final preparations for the congress, the plenum is slated to approve a report calling to account members of the Gierk leadership for their faulty political and economic decisions. Kania hopes to prevent this politically delicate issue from dominating discussion at the congress. [REDACTED]

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Soviets Praise Hardline Publication

The Soviets have departed from their recent tactic of avoiding public alignment with Polish hardliners. *Izvestia* on Wednesday commended an ultraconservative weekly newspaper in Warsaw for continuing to voice its views, despite anonymous threats to burn down its offices. [REDACTED]

Moscow's action may be meant to improve the morale of its conservative allies, whose position is almost certain to suffer at the party congress. It also seems intended to keep pressure on the Polish regime to tighten controls over more liberal newspapers. The government has already made some moves in this direction. [REDACTED]

